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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,997	01/22/2002	Eric A. Veignat	17.0191	1285

23718 7590 07/23/2003

SCHLUMBERGER OILFIELD SERVICES
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EXAMINER

POLITZER, JAY L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER


2856

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AM

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/031,997	Applicant(s) Veignat et al	
Examiner Jay Politzer	Art Unit 2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 14, 2003
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 32-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 32-57 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other:

Serial Number: 10/031,997

Art Unit: 2856

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACQUIRING DATA IN A
HYDROCARBON WELL IN PRODUCTION

Filed: 1/22/02

Inventor(s): Veignat et al

Attorney(s): Jefferey et al

DETAILED ACTION

REJECTIONS OVER PRIOR ART UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

"A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States."

2. Claims 32-45 and 47-57 are clearly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roesner.

Regarding Claims 32-45, 47-53 and 56-57; see Fig 6 and Col 11, Li 10-20.

Regarding Claim 54-55; see arms 236 and 252.

REJECTIONS OVER PRIOR ART UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

"A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person."

4. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Roesner.

Regarding Claim 46; Roesner fails to present this formula. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the claimed formula as a consequence of elementary calculus.

FINAL ACTION:

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

REMARKS:

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4/14/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Roesner doesn't specify pairs of sensors. However, since it is Roesner's objective to

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completely characterize each phase of the multi-phasic flow, see Col 1, Li 43 and 51-52, it is obvious to one skilled in the art that the needed data is density and velocity at points along the cross-section of the flow. To obtain this data, pairs of two sensors are needed; one for velocity and one for density. In Fig 6, probes 258 are positioned across the cross-section of the flow. At Col 10, Li 10-20, each probe carries one or several sensors. A logical pair to accomplish Roesner's objective is to choose at least the flow-rate sensor and the gamma ray detector. For accuracy these should both be mounted as a pair in the same probe, 258.

Applicant misinterprets Roesner's spinner to provide only one flow sensor at one location. In fact, Roesner mounts flow sensors at each probe, 258, across the flow.

Applicant argues that "a 'man' skilled in the art would" not know that the needed data is flow-rate and density. See any elementary text book on fluid mechanics.

INQUIRIES:

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr.

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Jay L. Politzer whose telephone number is (703) 305-4930 and whose facsimile number is (703) 308-7382

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Hezron E. Williams, can be reached at (703) 305-4705.
9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

jlp 7/18/03

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HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800